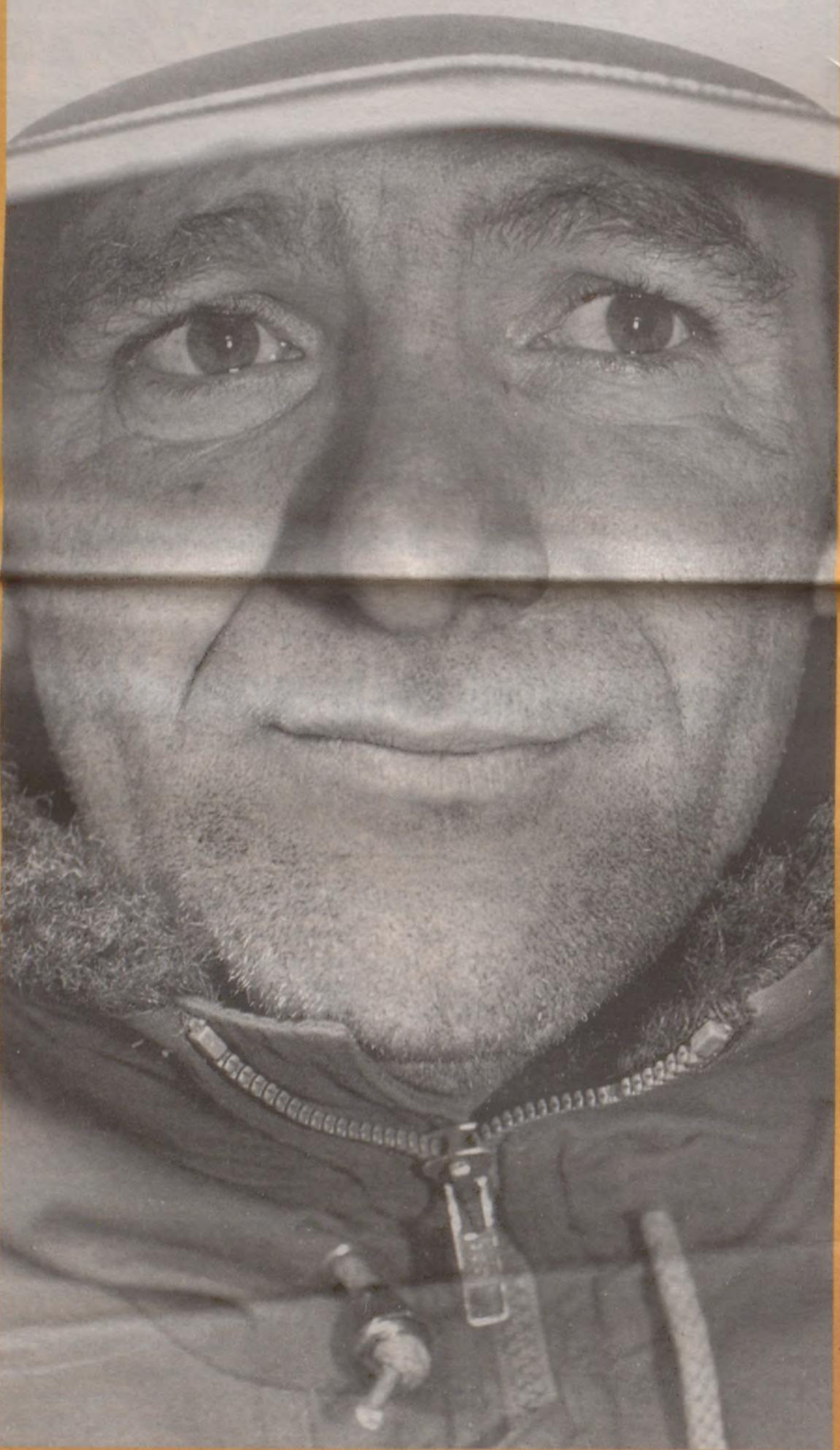


▼ MAY 1 • 1996

PHOTO • PIETER DEVOS JR

Rich & Poor

Randy Reid makes ends meet by selling a newspaper.
Others have "too generous" support. See page 5



Our Voice

The spare change newspaper

Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves



▲ Getting people working.

See page 6 & 7



▲ Pawnshops.

David Woolfson built
a community reputation.
See page 9

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NEWS • of the World

No one could eat that much linguini

It's been a week of unparalleled gluttony. In Bristol, 350 pound Chris Georgiou has been banned from the 'Eat As Much As You Can For 15 Pounds' night at a local restaurant after chomping his way through 75 pounds worth of paella. "I'm rather full," he admitted. Likewise American Onan Butterkiss, who exploded after a '\$5-Pig-Out' evening at a Chicago pizzeria. 168 pound Mr Butterkiss, 25, had entered the pizzeria and instructed staff to "feed me till I burst". This they duly did, ladling mountainous portions of pasta onto his plate and watching in amazement as he calmly gobbled the lot. He eventually left after 79 full helpings, looking

"twice as big as when he entered". As he went through the door, however, his stomach snagged on the handle and, according to the staff, "ripped open and spilled pasta everywhere. Initially we thought he'd hemorrhaged, but then we saw he'd been shovelling food into a false rubber belly". It transpired that Mr Butterkiss had been attending various 'Eat Till You Drop' evenings, concealing food in his latex stomach and taking it home to freeze. "No normal human could possibly eat that much creamed linguini," commented the restaurant manager. ♦

Better as a tomato than as a man

It might look harmless when Paul McKenna does it, but hypnotism has its darker side. Such was certainly the opinion of one Scottish housewife who, since being hypnotised, can't stop stripping in public. "She keeps getting nude in front of the vicar," explained her husband. "People are starting to talk." Likewise in Narbonne, France, where following a session with a travelling hypnotist one local man has become convinced he is a large beef tomato. Friends of Christian Chavert, 56, were highly amused when the hypnotist persuaded him he

was "a juicy red tomato". Amusement turned to horror, however, when, on returning home, Mr Chavert attempted to cut off his buttocks in order to make a lovely salad nicoise". "We have to watch him constantly," explained his exasperated wife. "He keeps getting into the fridge, and last night I caught him trying to fry himself with some garlic to make a bolognese sauce. It's ruined our marriage." Mr Chavert is unconcerned. "I'm better as a tomato than I ever was as a man," he confessed. ♦

Physicist outpaces the speed of light

Once again Japanese students have been displaying their intellectual prowess. In Tokyo, Hiroyuki Goto, 21, has recited Pi - the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter - to 42,194 decimal points. "I also enjoy massage with essential oils," admitted the exhausted mathematician. In Sendai, meanwhile, student Kai Nagasaki travelled at the speed of light. Mr Nagasaki, 19, had been working on the project since the age of 14, employing "fundamental Einsteinian principles" to construct a

"frictionless, sub-atomic, light de-amplifier" out of an old toilet cistern, several computers and an unspecified amount of explosive. Mr Nagasaki disappeared into his bedroom vowing to "change the course of history", after which there was a massive explosion and the house collapsed. "One moment I was on my bed, the next I was in a pond 300 feet away," said the proud physicist. "It happened faster than the speed of light. I am vindicated." ♦

It's been going wrong for lovers.

In Ohio, petite Daisy Gladden, 20, was trapped for four days under 182 pound boyfriend, James, after the latter died whilst making love in their car. "We'd just had the back seat re-upholstered," said a devastated Miss Gladden. Still more tragic were events in Germany, where Mathilda Schenkel accidentally stabbed husband Boris whilst re-enacting a gladiatorial combat. Mr and Mrs Schenkel, 61 and 53, respectively, of Bonn, were sparring in their living room when the tragedy happened. "It was basically to spice up our sex life,"

explained a tearful Mrs Schenkel. "I was wearing a sheet, and Boris was in his knickers with a plastic centurion's helmet." All went well for the first part of the game, with Mrs Schenkel jabbing at her spouse with a kitchen knife whilst he defended himself with a tin tray. Things got out of hand, however, when Mr Schenkel screamed "I'm Spartacus!" and charged at his wife who, overcome with passion, stabbed him in the heart. "He was a wonderful husband," she eulogised, "and an expert with the net and trident." ♦

VENDOR • Profile

Ken Russell

PHOTO • C. WATSON

BY C. WATSON

"Selling Our Voice is not my livelihood," says Ken Russell, "If I can drive, I drive. I can't live very well on what I make selling, but if I have to, I do. Thank you to everybody who buys from me on my corner." That's at 7th Avenue and 4th Street SW in Calgary, near the Court House.

Ken is happiest behind the wheel of a charter tour bus with up to 55 people chatting, rubber-necking or dozing behind him. Although he's just as pleased to be driving 72 school kids on their daily route. If he's driving a bus he's at home. He has a Class 2 With Air license, school bus driver training certification from B.C., references and

recommendations. He hopes to get a regular job in May when the tourist season picks up, he says. He has put out his resume and completed applications.

"I've been at it just about all my life. I couldn't do anything else. It's the only thing I know. I've been 30 years driving and 30 years doing Santa Claus." Now you know where you've seen that face! Santa was on our December '95 cover. Book Ken early this year for your Christmas party, he's a busy guy.

Another side of Ken is as a long-term sponsor with the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) program. He has walked and talked with 28 people in the program who are still sober today. "It's worth it. It's what keeps me going, working with others," he says. His own record on August 12 this year, will be 36 years without a drink. He has made a lot of friends through the program in Canada and the U.S. "They are a different kind of people from the ones I met when I was drinking."

"Everything I have today, and it's not very much, I give to this program," Ken says. He speaks to business groups and schools about the AA program. He's available to a troubled kid on the bus or to talk to a person with an alcohol problem on the street. And,

of course, he volunteers to drive week-ends for the AA's Roundups in Canada and the United States which, he says, are a good time.

Ken was born in Calgary and grew up in Prince Albert. He moved back to Calgary last July after working with a school bus company. He was scouting for Santa Claus bookings when he saw the sign to sell papers at the Calgary Urban Project Society office.

"It's the politeness that sells this paper, not just standing there and saying nothing. I have a lot of steadies that come by and I always say, 'Good morning', or 'How are you?' Being on the corner I meet a lot of people, and I like that."

"If money was no problem, if I had lots of it, what would I do? I'd give to the needy," he says. "If they are hungry, I'll take them into a restaurant for a meal or coffee. I'd even buy them clothes or whatever else they wanted."

Ken spots a glass-wrapped, super-tour bus three blocks away and accurately identifies it long before it reaches him. He admires it as it comes alongside. "They're just great to drive!" he says. ♦

The people who bring you OUR VOICE

This newspaper exists because of the efforts of the people who sell it to you on the street, the vendors. For our vendors OUR VOICE is a job that helps them to be independent and self-employed. Each issue we highlight one of our vendors in Vendor Profile to let you know a little bit about the people who bring you OUR VOICE. ♦

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Don't wait until it's too late

BY DONNA • VENDOR #1059

I started back in the summer of 1980. I lived in Vancouver at the time and I met a young man named Peter Walter Bilowus. We fell in love and were very happy.

We moved to Winnipeg, where Peter's parents lived. We stayed at his parents' house for a few months and then became the managers of a couple of apartment buildings. While we were managing the

second apartment I took a trip to see my family. I had every intention of going back to Winnipeg, but I didn't. I started to do some thinking about a lot of things and I was wondering if Peter was really the best man for me to spend the rest of my life with.

By the time I knew and was sure, it was too late. We were together for almost a year.

I was writing letters and making phone calls to him. We were happy to hear each other's voices and

we talked on the phone quite a bit over the years.

Peter went to live in the States for about ten years and then later moved back to Winnipeg. In September of 1994 I went on a trip and stopped in Winnipeg for a few days. I saw Peter and we spent a whole day together. We had a wonderful day. The day that I was leaving to come home he came to see me off.

That was the last time I saw him.

On May 24 last year I woke up in a happy mood and as the day went on something happened and it saddened me. I couldn't put my finger on it at the time but I sensed something bad was happening. It wasn't until a few months later that I found out about it.

On October 9 I tried to phone Peter and that is when his father told me about something that hurt. He said that Peter had gone for a walk after it had stopped raining. They couldn't find him. They got a call from the Winnipeg Police. His family was told that he was found face down in a park. He died that day, May 24, and they think that he had an epileptic seizure when he was out for his walk. He was 41.

Shortly after I found out I realized what it was I had felt back that day in May. I'm still hurting and I will never forget him. I also regret not going back to him. I was still connected emotionally and mentally to him and that is why I felt it.

Even though Peter is gone I will always have a place in my heart and my mind for him. I will always love him. He was my first real love.

I have a piece of advice for those of you in a serious relationship. I'm writing it from the deepest part of my heart. If you really love somebody and you know it, don't leave the relationship you are in. You might go through and feel some of the same things that I do. I would be very painful and hurtful for both of you. If any relationship is going to work you need to talk and compromise in a lot of areas. Do what has to be done to stay together and stay happy ♦.

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▲ Donna and Peter in happier times.

EDITORIAL • Opinion

The rich and the poor

The Fraser Institute of Vancouver came out with an interesting twist on an old saying recently: when the rich get richer the poor get richer.

The Institute recently sent out one of their regular "fax newsletter(s) for Radio Talk Show hosts" with an intriguing title: "Canadian Welfare System Not as Generous as American." They back this up with a table of figures showing that Alberta ranks 41st in American states and Canadian provinces for welfare payment levels.

They go on to conclude, however, that welfare rates in Canada are "too generous". They cite numerous statistics, including that "8 out of 10 provinces have had significant increases in the number of welfare recipients since 1990". They aren't clear about what that's supposed to prove. They imply that it's bad. Which it certainly is; it reflects the fact that a growing number of people have been unable to find jobs. They also point out that Alberta's had "a significant reduction in recipients since 1993". Which they might think is good, but unfortunately it doesn't mean those people have found good jobs or gotten much less poor. They've just been cut off or shuffled off to student loans or other provinces.

After pointing out what welfare levels have been in Canada, without explaining why they think they are "too generous", the Institute jumps over to noting that the highest welfare rates are in the American states where the most wealthy people are. "The conclusion is that those who would like to see higher levels of welfare support ought to promote economic growth and development...not compassion!" Really?

When the rich get richer, welfare levels go up, they say. And they seem to be saying also, keep the "too generous" welfare rates down so the rich can get richer, so the welfare rates can go up. Really?

Many of the very wealthy seem to have quite enough already. A recent Globe and Mail survey of some of the best paid MEN in Canada disclosed some pretty healthy incomes: \$47 million (up 16% from last year) for Frank Stronach, \$10 million for a David Walsh, and so on. "Platoons of executives with incomes of \$700,000, \$800,000 and \$900,000 end up on the discard pile," writes the Globe. "Those earning \$300,000 or \$400,000 begin to seem almost ascetic."

These are the people who can afford to financially support the Fraser Institute. The Fraser people call themselves a "think tank". They take contributions

from business and the very wealthy to help shape public (our) opinions. And they want us to think that welfare, as low as \$397 a month in Alberta, is "too generous".

We don't think so. In fact, we'd go back to another old saw about rich and poor, and quote a recently-spotted-bumper sticker about an old English folk hero: "Robin Hood was right!"

Who's tough?

Vancouver, now there's a tough town, says Mike, slouched against a wall at the Calgary drop-in.

"Remember me to the folks in Edmonton", he says. "Are you coming up to visit?"

"Naw, it'll be awhile before I go back up there, there's a couple of warrants."

He came back to Alberta for spring, but it was cold and snowing. "I had to get this coat, we just came with light jackets. Dunno why I came back here."

"But, man, is Vancouver tough. I saw a guy get shot."

"A girl died in my room, man. OD'd. The cops came to get her and didn't even ask any questions. We'll be out of your way pretty quick, they said. They didn't even care. Just another junkie to them. I don't know why people do that heroin, it's such a drag, you just go to sleep, man. Not for me."

I don't ask if Mike has stayed on the wagon and kept away from cocaine, his preferred high. It certainly doesn't sound like it.

"And Calgary, it's tougher than Edmonton, you know. In Edmonton, people know each other. But Vancouver, it's the toughest."

And Mike will be going back, no doubt. He's a young man who's kind of thrilled with living on the edge and impressing people with his stories. We wish him luck and some sort of lucky break before he crosses the line to become one of the statistics. ♦

KEITH WILEY

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Our Voice

The spare change newspaper

The end of Emily's bus ride

Emily is getting back on the bus. This issue we have the final installment in Emily and the Greyhound Bus, the wonderful story by Edmonton writer Allison Kydd that has drawn us on from issue to issue to find out what will happen to the struggling woman on a lonely bus ride. Serializing Allison's story has been lots of fun and we are looking for other stories to include in coming issues of Our Voice.

Frequent contributor Candy Watson from Calgary brings us the story of a job training program that has a great success rate. Candy also contributed our Vendor Profile.

Thanks to Donna for her touching personal story of lost love and chances missed. Trusty Tom Hind did an insightful look at pawnshops, young Edmonton area photographer Pieter De Vos has graced us with some of his excellent images. Richard Horne gives us another insightful movie review. Thanks to Linda Dumont, Ed Gould and Lorne Callaghan for cartoons and Susan Andrews for the crossword.

Crossword creators! We were wondering if there are any other crossword creating buffs out there? We would like to consider some new sources of crosswords for our fun inside back page.

Next issue: Loretta Daubert on The Rez, Sparky returns...and some more poetry from the streets.

KEITH WILEY
EDITOR

Selling Sam



Our Voice

The spare change newspaper

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OUR VOICE is published to provide an income opportunity for economically marginalized people in our society while communicating about their issues to the public.

For advertising rates and information, please contact Steve Rodda of SMRT Consulting at 944-1466

OUR VOICE welcomes your contribution. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, unless otherwise indicated. OUR VOICE welcomes written submissions, particularly those on IBM or Mac compatible computer disk, cartoons, photographs or artwork. OUR VOICE cannot accept responsibility

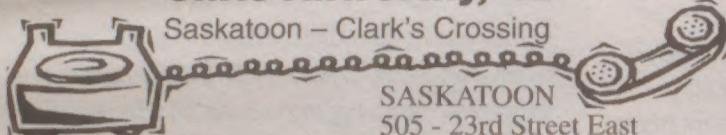


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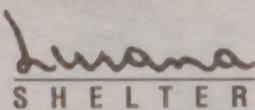
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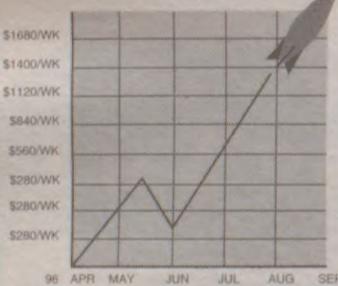


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Pilot project gets people

B Y C W A T S O N

It's the best-kept secret in town. They have a success rate of 88-92 per cent. Their students graduate and move into steady jobs. Graduates phone to report on their progress.

They come back to visit or volunteer to help others along.

"These guys are very understanding," says Howard Kowalchuk, a shipping/receiving program graduate. "I don't think there's anything they wouldn't do to help you get through. I was nervous about coming here. I'm not used to opportunities. I couldn't understand their concept for helping me get a job. I didn't think there were places that would do things like that, other than a university or a college."

Eric Rendell, now a packer/shipper for Bernard Callebaut Chocolaterie Ltd., says, "They market you very well. Their system works. It's just getting in the door to meet someone to get a job that's so difficult (on your own)."

Who says people can't get off welfare? Not the staff and facilitators at Career Designs Inc. in Calgary. They see them do it all the time. Skill training works and an increasing number of employers are eager to hire their grads.

Linda Boychuk, project manager, says, "I admire the people who come here! A single person on welfare has a very limited income out of which comes food, shelter, and transportation. A few take as long as eight months to a year to pass the courses and find a job. We just keep working with them until they are ready to go."

Career Designs, Calgary, with its head office in Edmonton, was chosen as one of four companies in Alberta to run the pilot project funded jointly by Alberta Family & Social Services and the Department of Advanced Education. It began in July '94. Each pilot project has to meet specific numbers, including numbers of graduates and numbers of people employed for three months or more.

The project was set up to find out if skill training works for welfare people. "Ultimately the government may decide that more funds should be funnelled into skill training rather than, say, life skills training or job clubs," says Boychuk.

The Alberta Government also wants to and into employment. Alberta Family and Edmonton, Bob Scott, reports that \$45.1 million in employment programs in the current bu

"A variety of services is offered to get p again," he says. These include a Job Corp program and an Alberta Community Em



▲ "Kelly" the mannikin gets some group attention from health care students (from left) Wanda Noname, Shirley Giroux, instructor Arlene Masson, Tia Isa and Carrie McKay.



▲ "Working in a chocolate factory brings out the kid in me again. I like it!" says Eric Rendell, who has three kids of his own.

is a three-bed hospital room complete w
mannikin is a realistically heavy "patien

An open area is set up as a kitchen/lau
can come here and use the washer and d
"It helps them out a lot."

Boychuk says, "It is a holistic approa
The staff care about each individual cli
in touch. In three weeks you can see the
self esteem increases and an I-can-do-it a
positive network. They make lifelong frie

The staff include two R.N.s, a peer ad

Get in Calgary Working

ants to help people move off welfare. Social Services spokesman in \$45.1 million has been budgeted for budget year 1995-96.

To get people on their feet and employed Corp program, an Employment Skills Employment program. "People in the field assess individuals and place them in whatever program they need," says Scott.

Career Designs' pilot project is separate from the Alberta government's programs. It promotes awareness of its skill training through newspaper ads, phone calls, pamphlets, and personal visits to Calgary's helping agencies. Clients must be referred by their social workers. "If they ask and show an interest, they are motivated when they come to us, and that works well," says Boychuk.

The Calgary project offers training in two areas: community health care and shipping/receiving/warehousing. Students learn computer skills and can take a mini-lifeskills course. They can earn certificates in WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Material Information System), First Aid, CPR, and Food Safety. Boychuk says, "All of us in the program are alert to what needs to change to keep up to date."

From Career Designs' bright third floor reception area in a downtown office building a door opens into a mini-warehouse setting. Racking is up and stocked. There are work stations, orders, receipts, dollies, a time clock, and busy students. Along the hallway is a sink, tub and toilet. "Kelly" the patient" for students to manage.

en laundry room. "Some of our students and dryer before classes," says Boychuk.

approach to training and employment. client. They follow up and try to keep the difference in the students. Their do-it attitude emerges. They have a support friends. They learn hope." advocate, two facilitators from the

shipping/receiving industry, a computer facilitator, a resume writer, a full-time marketing person to draw employers on side, a social worker, and a receptionist. Boychuk is an R.N. and was a director of Home Care for 15 years before moving to Career Designs. She says, "I've turned down other jobs to stay here. This work is a different gratification from Health. Friends ask if I did the right thing. I say: Yes!"

So, what does it take to join the pilot project? A referral from a social worker is the start. Boychuk says, "I don't reject many people. We've had about 600 people come through so far with about 50 per cent staying with us.



▲ The best bargains in town are in downtown Calgary! Teri Bicknell shows off leather boots in a section of A & D liquidation where she is supervising students Ray Derve and Kelli Vance.

on this. I learned you don't lose if you write and fail.

They don't kick you out. Failing just shows what you have to work on." Howard wrote the final. His mark was 92.5 per cent. "Now it's time to go to work!" he says.

Carrie McKay is another success story. Her life changed drastically at age 12 when she was badly burned in a house fire. Now 25, and after 97 operations, she works at the Fanning Centre as a nursing attendant trained by Career Designs. Carrie took only four months to learn the course and was working before she graduated. "I wanted to give something back for all the caring I had," she says, "and help other people." ♦

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Emily

BY ALLISON KYDD



VIA THE GREYHOUND BUS

Take the risk of loving a man again

The story this far: Emily's felt alone and unwanted for so much of her life, but now everyone seems to care about her. Lil and Joe want to help her find her people. Jeremy's so worried he's going to call the police if he doesn't hear from her soon. Even the Greyhound bus people - they're going to let her ride to Regina even without her ticket. All she has to do is figure out what it is that Emily wants.

From her booth by the window, Emily could see Joe and Lillian drive away in their sturdy, eight-seater van. Seemed like being an Indian guide must be a profitable enough business, if they could afford a vehicle like that. Surely Lil didn't make that much waitressing.

She guessed the van was also for driving tourists around. As Joe had said, this was Indian country. Hidden within what seemed like flat prairie were rolling hills and valleys, and sacred places, like that strange drawing of the medicine wheel on Joe's card. During the summer there'd be lots of people wanting to explore those sacred places, even if they didn't understand what they meant. And in the back country

along the boundary of the provincial park, there still wouldn't be many roads to speak of. Not likely these tenderfeet would be up to travelling over miles of rolling country with only horses beneath them.

Emily remembered horses vaguely, though it'd been a long time ago when her dad'd kept a couple on their place. She'd been a city girl herself for so long, she'd probably be as helpless on horseback as the tourists.

Joe, on the other hand, struck her as the kind of man who'd be comfortable anywhere. He'd still ride, keep a horse or two, but also be adaptable when he had to be. A little like her mother's new man, Sam.

Here she was now, comparing Joe to both her father and the man who'd taken her father's place when he died. Of course both Joe and Sam were luckier than her father, and Joe must really be into this stuff about reclaiming your native heritage, since he was even making some kind of a living at it. Maybe Sam was too. He'd make a good elder and ambassador, with his tolerant, easy-going manner.

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else to do, so she began to watch the two women as they swished back and forth from the kitchen to the tables in their yellow polyester uniforms and soft-soled shoes. They were so intent on their job, so professional, almost like nurses. They made it seem like serving people mattered, like they'd never wanted to do anything but that.

Good for them, thought Emily. And good for her if she could do as well. Find a little highway place, small enough that she could run it herself, with maybe one other to help her when it got busy. Live in the back with her baby. Why not?

Because of Jeremy, that was why not. She remembered that she should be phoning him. She didn't need the police looking for her, that's for sure. For some reason she was putting it off. She couldn't help remembering how Jeremy'd said he didn't want her to need him so much. Maybe it was him who needed her.

If she wanted to make a new life for herself, where did he fit in? Would she live as his wife and the mother of his

baby for a couple of years just to see his love die for good, as Marty's had? What if, no matter what she did, he never thought she was quite good enough for him?

Could Jeremy live in her world, if he had to? One thing was for sure. She wasn't giving up this baby, whatever she had to do to keep it.

And suddenly it seemed very clear what she had to do, wanted to do. Jeremy would just have to wait until she was ready. And she'd just have to wait and see about him. Whether to come to her, or whether he'd still be making excuses.

She knew she wasn't just thinking about the baby. With every man she'd known she'd lost too much of herself. No one had ever loved her enough to make up for that loss.

Maybe she was the one who thought she wasn't good enough. Who felt as if wherever she went she didn't belong. Somehow she'd have to fix that before she could feel safe with any man. Able to believe that love and hap-

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For almost the first time, Emily missed her father and regretted that he wasn't still alive. She wanted him to see how native people were making their own livings without pretending to be white. She'd often thought he died because he didn't know how to be anything but an Indian, and it seemed like there wasn't any use for Indians anymore. Until now, she'd even believed that maybe he was right, and she was his daughter who'd have to find her way among strangers or die as well.

What did all these things mean for her now? Was there some way she could go back to being an Indian - or whatever they were supposed to be calling themselves these days - and still survive? Not just waiting for handouts from the government but doing something important? Could she maybe be a teacher like her mother'd always wanted? Was she smart enough, strong enough? Could she do it on her own?

And could she maybe even find out what had become of her boys, Fighter and Aaron, wherever they were?

That'd done it. There were tears

starting to run down her face again when she thought of her boys. For once she didn't try to cover up the tears. She had a right to cry over her lost children, men born of her own body. And all those other men she'd lost. Screw these friends of Lillian's if they minded her bawling in their restaurant.

It didn't seem, however, that the two waitresses on the morning shift were paying much attention to her. Lillian had introduced them - their names were Darlene and Jill. Though they'd been pleasant to her, they were too busy with the paying customers to notice whether she was crying into her lukewarm coffee.

Nine o'clock was obviously the height of the breakfast rush. A charter'd just come in - probably from the eastern States - she could hear the drawling accents and see them shivering in their too-heavy parkas. You'd think they were expecting the Arctic instead of the prairies of southeast Saskatchewan - and all the tables were jammed.

Emily'd had all the coffee she could handle for now and there wasn't much

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pines couldn't just disappear in a puff of smoke if she said the wrong thing to him, made some little mistake.

She'd never know if she didn't go it on her own for a while. Not like when she was seventeen. Running away from school was just to keep up with her reputation for being wild. And even then she was looking for other people to make her feel good, just like now. What she needed was to understand who she was and that she was okay all on her own. And someday, when she was ready to take the risk of loving a man again, Jeremy might still be waiting.

So Emily phoned him, and it was tough to tell him she didn't want to see him right now. She didn't know from the hurting sound in his voice whether he understood or not. She didn't mention the baby. That would stack the deck in too many ways. What she did do was promise that she would call again when she got to Sakimay - if she could find a phone somewhere.

As she talked to the man who'd been her lover for twelve years, Emily made herself a promise. Never again

would she stay in a place where she was feeling like an outsider to the man she loved. Better to be without a man. Still, she hoped there'd come a time when she knew herself better, when he could come to her and there'd be no danger.

After she'd said good-bye to Jeremy, she returned to her booth, leaned back against the warm leatherette and dozed until the Regina-bound bus arrived at 10:05. Within twenty minutes, she was settled again on the Greyhound bus, with Lillian's knubby sweater and the old afghan from the little office couch wrapped around her.

And the road passed under her and the winter sky hurried by her and she was on her way, into the future.

And in her womb, the child nestled - so tiny as to be almost invisible now, but growing - infinitely trusting and, because she would make it so, secure.

That's the 13th and final part of Allison Kydd's great story. Our Voice is currently looking for another story to serialize. ♦

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OUR
VOICE
MAY 1
1996

Pawnshops doing thriving business It's 'buyer beware' out there

BY TOM HIND

"They took the diamond out of my gold ring," says Don. "They replaced it with silicon. I got suspicious because I weighed my ring before I took it in, in case they scraped some of the gold off. When I got it back the weight wasn't the same. So I took it and got it appraised by another dealer. That's when I found out the diamond had been replaced."

Don's story isn't an isolated one. People who are forced to pawn their property for quick cash have many different stories about pawnshops and their services.

One mentally disadvantaged lady reports: "I only got five dollars for my TV and bike. I thought that was pretty bad. But I needed the money for a package of cigarettes so I took it."

"Maybe the pawnbroker was doing her a favour by not letting her get in too deep. Not all pawnbrokers are heartless," said one of the six Edmonton police officers who work full-time policing the city's 129 pawnshops.

Constables Harold McHardy, Rick Stuart and Guy English of the Norwood Police Station say that the public should be educated in ways to tighten their belts instead of running to pawnshops with their TVs, VCRs, cameras, jewelry and other valuables.

"Not all pawnshop owners are scrupulous," says McHardy. Constable Stuart agrees, "They can charge up to 60% interest on a 30-day loan. And some do."

Not David Woolfson of A1 Pawnshop on 95 Street. David operates his business with a different attitude from the average pawnbroker. He charges between 20-25% interest on pawned goods. "My operating credo is that you have to



give, not take. The more you give the more you make. I specialize in oddball items. Look," he says, "you see that, that's a high-tech meter for lathes. And over there is a dog sled."

David's shop is totally computerized and he can call up the current value on any piece of merchandise in a matter of seconds.

"This is not a business for someone to get into without enough capital. You need around \$100,000 for start up," he says. "It was a bit rough weathering the first year and a half and building a solid community reputation. But now I'm established and people know they'll get a fair deal from me. I suspect the odd broker who deals in stolen merchandise drifts into it because of financial difficulties."

Stolen property in pawnshops is the main concern of the police department. A massive amount of paperwork has to be screened daily as

they check for proper identification of property and people in pawnshops. Every transaction is screened and cross-referenced, and when something shows up odd the investigative footwork begins, often tracking down felons and tracing the origins of suspect property.

It is 'buyer beware' for people getting bargains out of the pawnshop. If they get "rooked" by the shop, it is their responsibility and their fault. Buyers can be charged with possession of stolen property, and have it confiscated, even if they bought it in good faith with no idea of its origin.

"Only a small percentage of shop owners traffic in stolen goods," says Constable English. "Most are on the up and up. But it keeps us busy sorting out the shady dealers and recovering stolen property and charging criminal perpetrators in the trade." ♦

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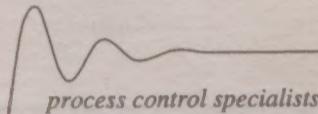
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MOVIE • Review

Angels and Insects: moral decay as a particularly human condition

BY RICHARD HORNE

If I was to tell you that I just saw a great movie featuring plenty of bugs, sex and intrigue all wrapped up in Victorian clothing, you would be forgiven for assuming I was referring to some grade Z schlockmeister movie. However *Angels and Insects* is directed by Philip Haas, not Ed Wood, and comes off as if Peter Greenaway met Merchant Ivory and Tennessee Williams in a crumbling English Manor. The resulting film makes period pieces like *Restoration* and *Sense and Sensibility* look like the fluff they truly are by presenting moral decay as a particularly human condition.

Written by Philip and Belinda Haas, and based on the novella *Morpho Eugenia* by A.S. Byatt, *Angels and Insects* opens with a tremendous tribal dance sequence, showing naturalist William Adamson (Mark Rylance) being seduced by the primitive cultures of the Amazon. Of course, this "savage versus civilized" story is nothing new, but Haas manages to keep us interested by playing the story close to his chest, giving only hints as to the truth behind the locked door. Having survived a shipwreck, but losing almost all of his collected specimens, Adamson returns empty-handed to the Estate of his benefactor, the Reverend Alabaster. There he meets the children of the Alabasters, including Eugenia (Patsy Kensit), the Reverend's eldest daughter, and the only son, Edgar (Douglas Henshall). Although Edgar urges him to leave, Adamson is unable to do so as he finds himself drawn like a moth to the light of Eugenia's beauty. Adamson woos Eugenia, and to his great surprise succeeds in catching her, but a dark secret in her past cannot be buried forever.



Adamson soon finds himself regretting his marriage as he gets to know Matty Crompton (Kristin Scott Thomas), a woman employed as a teacher for the Alabasters' younger children. As Adamson and Crompton work together educating the children on the dark secret life of ants, Haas begins to reveal the dark secret life of the Alabasters, until we begin to understand who are the insects and who are the angels.

The film features strong performances from all the cast and credit is due to Kensit, who trades in her sex kitten image with a marvelous performance as an incredibly vapid woman. Rylance's naturalist has a scientist's insight into people, making him noble and civil, but also generally oblivious to the obvious. Best of all is Kristin Scott Thomas as Matty. A keenly intelligent woman, with great intellectual and creative powers, she is all too aware of the limits society places on her because of her gender and social standing. Matty is the force that propels the film, her sharp tongue and biting wit pushing Adamson from stupor to action, and it is obvious that in another time she could easily be the scientist and he the assistant.

Angels and Insects makes the 1860s seem a little more relevant to the 1990s. Sure, the clothes are different, but even now physical appearance often seems more important than intelligence, and money and power are still the best tools of immorality. Besides, who can resist a movie with plenty of bugs, sex and intrigue all wrapped up in Victorian clothing? ♦



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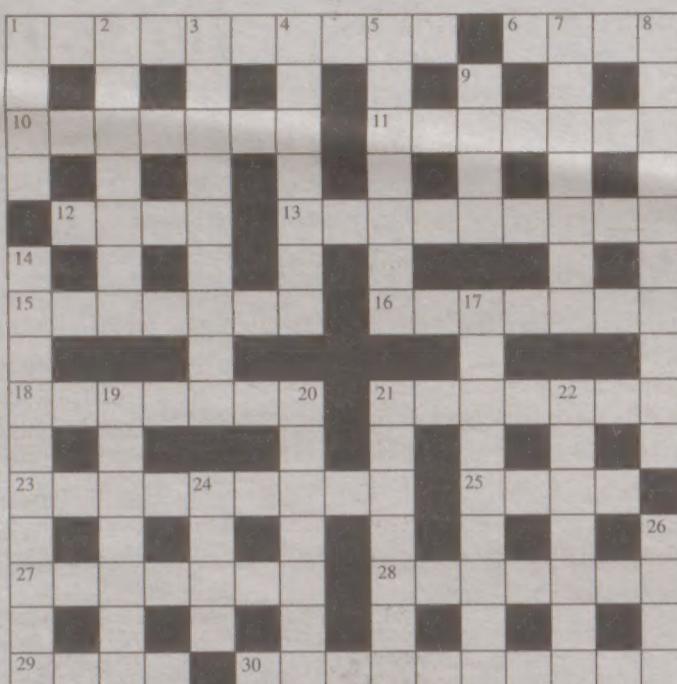
CROSSWORD • Puzzle 30

A C R O S S

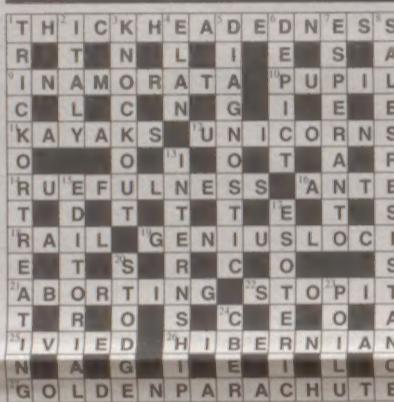
BY SUSAN ANDREWS

D O W N

- 1 Skull (6,4)
- 6 Soft, soapy-textured mineral (4)
- 10 Used to feed horses still in harness (7)
- 11 Person who raises livestock (7)
- 12 Lowest female voice (4)
- 13 Fish found in Caesar salad (9)
- 15 Protruding brow (7)
- 16 Petroleum (7)
- 18 Term of residence (7)
- 21 Considerable (7)
- 23 Land Down Under (9)
- 25 Formerly Persia (4)
- 27 First (7)
- 28 Kingdom ruled by a Khan (7)
- 29 Largest Hebridean isle (4)
- 30 Study of North African desert country (10)



Answers to April 1 Crossword #29



► OUR APOLOGIES.

Last issue's crossword had the previous issue's clues repeated. Puzzle 30 answers will be published in the May 15 issue of *Our Voice*.

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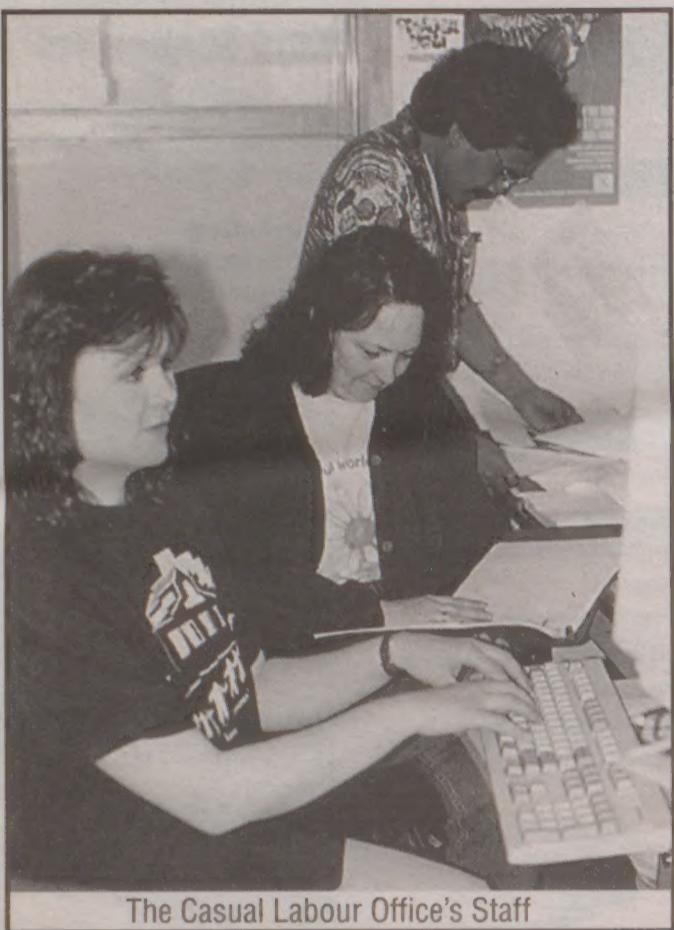
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"You used to be able to count on seasonal employment to get you by. Now there are so many people looking for work, the competition is tough."

Donald Beadrea spent ten years working in Northern Alberta as a Camp Attendant. He now uses Bissell Centre's Casual Labour Office to support himself whenever he can't find permanent work.

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- Furniture Moving
- Spring Cleaning
- Housekeeping
- Lawn Care
- Garden Work
- Child Care
- Home Care
- Painting

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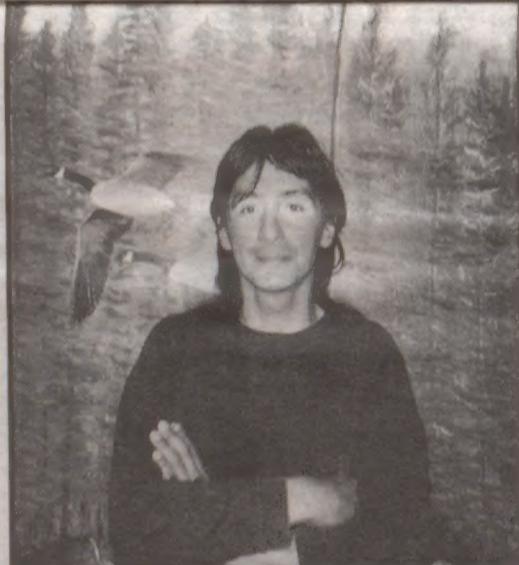
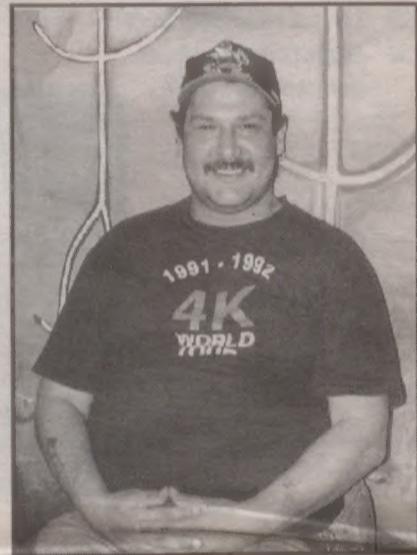
Bissell Centre's Casual Labour Office in Edmonton offers a unique service, putting employees in touch with prospective employers at no cost to either party. Placement or broker's fees are not necessary as the system is totally funded by Canada Employment.

In addition to providing an employment service, the Casual Labour Office offers training courses in work related topics such as first aid, W.H.M.I.S. and H₂S to further improve workers' chances of finding suitable employment. Basic work clothing such as hard hats, work gloves and boots can often be provided.

As well as helping out businesses, the Casual Labour Office can supply workers for the tasks that need to be done in your home and garden such as lawn care, heavy cleaning, preparing the yard and moving furniture.

"Casual Labour helps me make ends meet each month. Usually by mid month my money is gone. Through Casual Labour, I can make enough to make a difference."

Jerry Perrault



"It's difficult to watch the same people coming in each day prepared for work, and they often end up sitting and waiting for a job that doesn't come. This last winter was particularly bad. there was a lot of snow to clear but it was often too cold to work outside.

The majority of our jobs are outdoors, and as a result we are very dependent on the weather. It would be great if we could get more indoor work such as warehouse work."

Anne Daly, Employment Co-ordinator

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